

## CLAIMS

1. An information coincidence method for a distribution system having plural elements each including a computation device, comprising the steps of:

5 supplying common data of common type indicating features of said elements to said respective elements;

receiving said common data by at least one of said plural elements from other elements, and based on said common data and said common data received from other elements, determining by 10 said computation device the content of common data for coincidence among said plural elements; and

correcting the content of the common data of said plural elements to coincide with each other based on the determined content.

15 2. An information coincidence method according to claim 1, wherein said step of determining the content of said common data is performed by majority rule.

3. An information coincidence method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of defining a significance level 20 for each common data,

wherein said step of determining the content of said common data is performed by majority rule using said significance level.

4. An information coincidence method according to claim 25 1, further comprising the step of defining a significance level

for each element,

wherein said step of determining the content of said common data is performed by majority rule using said significance level.

5 5. An information coincidence method according to claim 1, wherein said method is performed when any of said common data is accessed.

6. An information coincidence method according to claim 1, wherein said method is performed periodically.

10 7. An information coincidence method according to claim 1, wherein said method is performed at a predetermined time.

8. An information coincidence method according to claim 7, wherein said significance level is set based on the number of data updates in said element, and is utilized as a weight in majority rule for coincidence among said common data.

9. An information coincidence method according to claim 7, wherein said significance level is set based on a data update event in said element.

10. An information coincidence method according to claim 7, wherein said significance level is set in correspondence with data update time in said element.

11. A distribution system having plural elements each including a computation device, wherein each element comprising:

25 means for holding common data of common type indicating

features of said element;

means for receiving said common data by at least one of said plural elements from other elements, and based on said common data and said common data received from other elements;

5 determining by said computation device the content of common data for coincidence among said plural elements; and

means for correcting the contents of the common data of said plural elements based on the determined contents.

12. A distribution system according to claim 11, wherein said means for determining the content of said common data determines the content by majority rule.

13. A distribution system according to claim 11, further comprising means for defining a significance level for each common data,

15 wherein said means for determining the content of said common data determines the content by majority rule using said significance level.

14. A distribution system according to claim 11, further comprising means for defining a significance level for each 20 element,

wherein said means for determining the content of said common data determines the content by majority rule using said significance level.

15. A product advertisement method comprising the steps

25 of:

providing a computation device to respective plural products of the same type;

providing price data indicating a price to said respective products;

5 receiving said price data by at least one of said plural products from other products, and based on said price data and said price data received from other products, determining by said computation device a price as price data for coincidence among said plural products.

10 controlling said price data in said plural products to coincide with each other based on the determined price;

transmitting said coincide-processed price data to a store apparatus of a store handling said products; and

15 transmitting advertisement information including said coincidence-processed price data from said store apparatus via a network to customer apparatuses of persons who can be customers of said products.

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